

### **Proposed New Clean Energy Grant Program Guidelines:**

The Maryland Energy Administration will be issuing new regulations for its clean energy grant programs, that will take effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2010. With the recently amended Federal income tax credit enabling residents to claim 30 percent of the total installed cost of solar PV, solar hot water, and geothermal heat pump systems against their income tax, MEA has decided to revisit its own incentives for residential renewable energy. MEA believes these new regulations will remain a strong catalyst for the purchase of clean, renewable power, and will enable even more Maryland residents who wish to take control of their energy future, to do so.

#### ***Proposed new regulations are as follows:***

##### Geothermal:

A grant awarded under this Program may not exceed \$500 per ton of cooling capacity, with maximum grant amounts of \$3,000 for residential systems, and \$10,000 for commercial systems.

##### Wind:

Grant amount unchanged.

##### Solar Photovoltaic:

For photovoltaic property the lesser of \$1.25 per watt of installed electricity generating capacity for the first 4,000 watts; \$1.00 per watt of installed electricity generating capacity for the 4,001-8,000 watts; and, \$0.50 per watt of installed electricity generating capacity for the 8,001-10,000 watts with the maximum grant of \$10,000.

##### Solar Hot water:

For solar water heating property, the lesser of \$2,500 or 30 percent of the total installed cost of the solar water heating property.

NOTE I. Should a given year's budget for the above grants be more than half subscribed in the first three months of the fiscal year, or three-quarters subscribed within the first six months of the year, the dollar value per unit of power referenced above (per ton of cooling or per watt of electricity) above shall be reduced by 10%.

NOTE II. In addition, the applicant for any of the above grants must enclose verification that a suitable home energy audit has been conducted on the building that the solar photovoltaics, solar hot water systems, geothermal heat pumps, and wind turbines are to service, with the home energy audit having taken place up to but not earlier than or not after 9 months from the time of installation.